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Urban District of Ilfracombe.



ANNUAL
HEALTH REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1956

INCLUDING THE

Report ^{of} _{the} Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Report of the Public Health Inspector.



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Urban District of Ilfracombe.



ANNUAL
HEALTH REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

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Report ^{of} _{the} Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Report of the Public Health Inspector.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
ILFRACOMBE.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ilfracombe Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1956.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

A. H. MORLEY,

O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

July, 1957.

Public Health Staff :

Part-Time Officer :

Medical Officer of Health—

A. H. MORLEY, O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Whole-Time Officers :

Senior Public Health Inspector, Cleansing Superintendent,

Housing Officer, Petroleum Inspector.

F. J. SAUNDERS, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Meat Inspector's Certificate, Royal Society of Health.

Food Inspector's Certificate, Liverpool University.

Clerk—Mrs. M. Potts.

Committees concerned with matters of public health.

1. Public Health, Cemetery and Water.
2. Housing Management.

Statistics.

General Statistics.

Area (Land and Inland Water)	...	...	5,627 acres
Population :—			
Mid 1956 Estimate	...	...	8,780
Rateable Value (1-4-56)	...	...	£174,113
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£685 0s. 0d.
Bright sunshine during 1956	...	...	1712.3 hours
Rainfall during 1956	...	...	35.01 inches

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	52	47	99
Illegitimate	5	—	5
Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)			11.8

Still Births.	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births)			9.6

Deaths - All Causes.	Males	Females	Total
	57	65	122
Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population)		...	13.89
Corrected Death Rate (per 1,000 population) i.e., the rate when adjusted for age and sex distribution to make it comparable with other districts in England and Wales.		...	10.14
Death Rate for England and Wales. (per 1,000 population)		...	11.7

Deaths from Maternal Causes.

There were no deaths from maternal causes during the year 1956.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Infantile Death Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)		...	28.8
Legitimate Infants (per 1,000 Legitimate Births)		...	30.3
Illegitimate Infants (per 1,000 Illegitimate Births)			Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	Nil

Table showing the certified Causes of Death in the district during 1956.

Registrar General's Figures.

			Males	Females
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	—	—
Syphilitic diseases	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	6	5
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	—	—
Diabetes	...	...	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	9	15
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	7	4
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	—	3
Other heart disease	...	...	16	19
Other circulatory disease	...	...	1	2
Influenza	...	...	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	3	3
Bronchitis	...	...	2	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	...	...	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	—
Congenital malformations	...	...	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	5	3
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	—	—
All other accidents	...	...	1	1
Suicide	...	...	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	—
Total all causes	...	...	57	65

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospitals.

The hospital services for Ilfracombe and the surrounding areas are administered by the South-West Regional Hospital Board through the North Devon Hospital Management Committee.

The hospitals situated in the town are the Ilfracombe and District Tyrrell Hospital which has 32 beds and the Bicclescombe Hospital which has ten beds for convalescent patients, ten for maternity cases and four ante-natal beds.

Isolation of Infectious Diseases.

The North Devon Joint Isolation Hospital at Bideford is available for infectious diseases other than small pox.

Small Pox.

Upton Pyne Hospital near Exeter is the one to which any cases of small pox would be sent.

Special ambulance transport can be obtained by contacting the Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter, Telephone No. 67158.

Disinfection. The Councils steam disinfecting apparatus is housed in a building adjacent to Bicklescombe Hospital. By arrangement with the Council, the North Devon Hospital Board are allowed the use of this plant for disinfecting hospital clothing and bedding.

Laboratory Facilities. Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter.

Ambulance Services. Two motor ambulances, under the control of the County Health Authority, are stationed at Ilfracombe and operated by the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Orthopædic Clinic. Held at Boutport Street, Barnstaple, the first Friday in each month at 11 a.m. by appointment.

Chest Clinic. At the North Devon Infirmary Annexe, Barnstaple. Sessions are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4-0 p.m. for clinic and X Ray examinations, and on Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4-0 p.m. for A.P. Refills.

Venereal Diseases Clinic. This is held at the North Devon Infirmary Annexe.

Females : Mondays 4-0 p.m. Thursdays 4-30 p.m.

Males : Mondays 5-15 p.m. Thursdays 5-45 p.m.

The following sessions are held at the Welfare Centre, Market Street :—

SCHOOL CLINIC. Each Thursday at 10 a.m.

INFANT WELFARE CLINIC. Each Friday at 2 p.m.

DENTAL CLINIC. Each Friday at 10 a.m.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC. Alternate months. Third Wednesday, 10 a.m.

SPEECH CLINIC. Each Tuesday at 2 p.m.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINIC. Each Friday at 2 p.m.

CLASSIFIED SUMMARY OF ALL INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1956.

Disease	Ages of Cases Notified								Ages at Death							
	Under 1	1 2	3 4	5 9	10 14	15 24	25 & over	Total	Under 1	1 2	3 4	5 9	10 14	15 24	25 & over	Total
Diphtheria ...																
Dysentery ...																
Encephalitis ...																
Erysipelas ...																
Food Poisoning ...																
Malaria ...																
Measles ...	7	30	30	101	4	1	1	174								
Meningococcal Infection ...																
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...																
Pneumonia ...			1			1	2	4							6	6
Acute Poliomyelitis ...																
Puerperal Pyrexia ...																
Scarlet Fever ...																
Small Pox ...																
Paratyphoid Fever ...																
Enteric or Typhoid Fever																
Whooping Cough ...	4	6	10					20								

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during 1956.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 25 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 35 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 45 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 55 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 to 65 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—

Measles.

An outbreak of measles occurred during the early part of the year, most of those affected were school children between five and nine years of age. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough.

Twenty cases were notified and in almost all cases followed a measles infection. All made a successful recovery.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

A five years old child, brought into the local hospital from Woolacombe, was notified as suffering from this disease, the case was transferred to the Isolation Hospital and subsequently found not to be poliomyelitis.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AND FEVERS.

The following Infectious Diseases and Fevers are compulsorily notifiable in this district :—

Cholera	Pneumonia (Acute Influenzal)
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	Pneumonia (Acute Primary)
Dysentery (Bacillary or Amœbic)	Poliomyelitis (Acute Paralytic)
Encephalitis (Acute Infective)	Poliomyelitis (Acute Non-Paralytic)
Encephalitis (Acute Post Infectious)	Puerperal Pyrexia
Erysipelas	Relapsing Fever
Food Poisoning	Scarlet Fever
Malaria	Small Pox
Measles	Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)
Meningococcal Infection	Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers
Plague	Typhus Fever
	Whooping Cough

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1956.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Ilfracombe Urban District
Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Twenty-ninth Annual Report relating to environmental public health and the public cleansing services in this district during the year 1956.

The number of notices served was 276, of these 45 were verbal, 227 informal and 4 statutory. The number of letters sent out was 1,692 and had reference to the following: Infectious Disease, 335; Food, including Food Hygiene Regulations, 891; Ice Cream, 34; Nuisances, 31; Refuse Collection and Salvage, 35; Housing, 148; Factories Act, 23; Pest Destruction, 21; Petroleum Act, 57; Miscellaneous, 117.

Complaints totalled 64, of these 6 referred to Council houses, 14 to other Council properties and 5 concerned choked street gullies. 33 had reference to the presence of rats or mice, 4 related to nuisances under the Public Health Act and 2 to matters outside the scope of this department.

11 rooms and 230 articles were disinfected, 5 of the rooms in consequence of infectious disease and 6 in order to eradicate vermin.

The coming into operation of the Food Hygiene Regulations on 1st January, 1955, entailed an increase in the work of this section. A considerable amount of time was occupied in the inspection of food shops, hotels and boarding establishments. All food shops were visited from time to time and 269 special visits were made to inspect 202 different hotels and boarding houses.

As will be seen on page 11 a substantial amount of improvement was effected but owing to it being the busy season at the time when many of the places were visited, certain work was deferred until the end of the season, this work will be shown in the next report.

Details respecting the expansion in refuse collection work were given in the Annual Report for 1953. The work continues to be carried out efficiently and economically.

The placing of concrete tubes with metal containers for use as litter receptacles in the streets proved most successful as they appeared to induce the public to make use of them instead of throwing litter about the road.

These containers have the added advantage of being more hygienic and less unsightly than the wire baskets formerly in use.

In connection with rodent control all farms were inspected and visits were also paid to allotments and business premises to which rodents were likely to be attracted.

18 inspections were made of public places of entertainment.

52 visits were made to piggeries and stables.

233 interviews were arranged chiefly in connection with property repairs and 138 special inspections were made to ascertain that regulation dustbins were provided for private houses.

One licence to keep a Pet Shop was issued and one slaughterman's licence was granted.

I would again like to express my thanks to all Members and Officers of the Council for their co-operation and assistance during the year and particularly to Mrs. M. Potts for the way in which she helped in the smooth working of the office.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. J. SAUNDERS, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.

House roofs repaired and made watertight	...	...	...	...	12
Eaves gutters and downpipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	3
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	5
External plastering repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Chimney stacks repaired, rebuilt or repointed	...	...	...	...	3
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Plaster walls repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Skirting boards repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Kitchen stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Walls repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	...	...	2
New dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	8
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	1
Nuisance from animals abated	...	...	...	...	1
Water supply improved	...	...	...	...	2
Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	3

Sanitary Accommodation.

Water closet basins replaced	...	...	...	...	3
Water closet basins cleansed	...	...	...	...	2
Water closet cisterns repaired or replaced	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ seats repaired	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ walls limewashed	...	...	...	...	2

Drainage

Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	22
Inspection chambers reconstructed	...	...	...	...	4
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	2
New gullies provided	...	...	...	...	4
Soil pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	1
New interceptors fixed	...	...	...	...	2

Factories.

Walls and ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	...	6
Water closet seats and pans cleansed	...	...	...	...	8
Water closet compartments colourwashed	...	...	...	...	5
Water closet cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	4

Factories Act, 1937 & 1948.

I. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health.

(Inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	38	115	1	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	59	82	1	—
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	4	28	—	—
Total	101	225	2	Nil

2. **Cases in which Defects were found.**

Particulars	Number of Cases in which Defects were				Number of defects in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	6	6	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	7	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	2	2	—	—	—
Total	15	15	Nil	Nil	Nil

OUTWORK.

SECTION 110

SECTION 111

Nature of Work	Number of outworkers in August	Number of Cases of Default in sending lists	Number of prosecutions for failure to send lists	Number of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel—Making etc.	6	—	—	—	—	—
Brass & Brass Articles	0	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Smoke Abatement. 22 observations each of 30 minutes duration were taken, no nuisance was recorded during any of the observations and no complaints were received.

Sewerage and Drainage. The district has a modern system of sewerage. There are two outfalls, both of which discharge into the tideway of the Bristol Channel at points well below low water marks and these have proved highly satisfactory.

No extension was made of the sewers in 1956.



Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year:

(a) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	16
(b) By private enterprise	...	...	...	2

—————

Housing Statistics.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	67
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	460
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	3
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	92
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	45

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	40
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A. *Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :				
(a) By owners	...	...	...	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	0

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	44
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :		
(a) By owners	... ..	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	0

C. *Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... ..	11
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	0

D. *Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	3
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	0

Overcrowding.

No new cases of overcrowding were reported during the year.

Housing. Six families consisting of 16 persons living in condemned houses were given tenancies of Council houses, and 15 other families living under unsatisfactory conditions were rehoused. In 3 cases families were transferred to larger houses to meet the need for extra bedrooms, two other families whose households had become smaller were transferred to smaller houses.

By mutual arrangement 4 families were allowed to exchange houses and thus provide more convenient accommodation. An Ilfracombe family was permitted to exchange with a family resident in Bristol.

On December 31st there were 129 names on the Council's list of housing applicants. 95 of these were tenants of houses or separate flats, 19 shared accommodation with other families, the remaining 15 applicants were persons who were neither living nor working in Ilfracombe.

Four applicants when offered accommodation refused to accept.

Demolition Orders. Demolition Orders were made in respect of :
Numbers 92a, 92b, and 93 High Street.
Numbers 2, 3, 4, and 5 Millpond Cottages.
Numbers 1, 2/3, 5, and 6 Witheridge Place.
No demolitions were carried out.

Closing Orders. Closing Orders were made and became operative in respect of :
Numbers 12 and 12a, Fore Street.
Number 7, Clarence Cottages.

Camping Grounds. There are three licensed camping grounds, each of these is provided with a supply of water from the public mains and with modern water closets.

Five other sites were in use for short periods during the holiday season.

A survey of all camping grounds was made early in August when the sites were found to be occupied by 96 caravans and 354 tents, accommodating approximately 1,380 campers.

On two sites a few caravans are in use all the year round.

29 inspections were made to ensure that nuisance was not caused.

Water Supply.

The public supply in the Council's Area was consistently satisfactory in quality and also in quantity throughout the year.

The water is derived from two main sources :—

- (a) Watershed of open moorland forming part of the Forest of Exmoor.
- (b) A limited gathering ground in the vicinity of the Slade Reservoirs.

There is a piped supply of water for all the population with the exception of a few in the outlying parts of the district who have their own private supplies. No houses are supplied by means of standpipes.

12 samples of water were taken from taps served by the public mains, these were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Exeter for bacteriological examination. All of the samples gave Class 1 results.

No samples were obtained this year for chemical examination.

Private Water Supplies. 4 samples were taken from private supplies, bacteriological examination showed two samples were highly satisfactory, the other two showed evidence of contamination.

Sea Water Swimming Baths. Modern filtration and chlorination plant is in use at the Council's Swimming Baths. Tests are frequently made by this Department to ensure that efficient chlorination is carried out.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Ilfracombe Public Abattoir has not been in use as a slaughterhouse since 1942 and no other premises have been used as a slaughterhouse since that date.

The number of food premises in this area, by type of business is :

Bakehouses	...	...	8
Butchers shops...	...	...	11
Cafés and Restaurants	...	...	42
Confectioners	...	...	23
Fish and Chip Fryers	...	...	5
Fishmongers	...	...	5
Greengrocers	...	...	16
Grocers and Provisions Dealers	...	...	28
Market	...	...	1

35 premises are registered for the manufacture or storage of preserved foods, 68 special visits were paid to these.

Inspections made in connection with food premises included :—
Bakehouses, 55 ; Cafes and Hotels, 449 ; Food Shops, 1064 ; Market, 50 ;
Meat Carriers Vehicles, 115 ; Other Food Premises, 63.

Unsound Food surrendered as unfit for human consumption comprised :

Tinned and Bottled Goods.

Apples	... 10 tins	Pilchards	... 5 tins
Apricots	... 36 „	Salmon	... 4 „
Currants	... 16 „	Sardines	... 6 „
Damsons	... 1 „	Brisket Beef	... 1 „
Fruit Salad	... 13 „	Chicken	... 8 „
Grapefruit	... 31 „	Corned Beef	... 10 „
Guava Jelly	... 3 „	Ham	... 68 „
Marmalade	... 2 „	Jellied Pork	... 1 „
Oranges	... 10 „	Jellied Veal	... 2 „
Peaches	... 39 „	Luncheon Meat	... 17 „
Pears	... 18 „	Minced Beef Loaf	... 4 „
Pineapples	... 40 „	Pork Brawn	... 2 „
Plums	... 19 „	Pressed Beef	... 3 „
Prunes	... 1 „	Steak	... 12 „
Raspberries	... 2 „	Tongue	... 8 „
Tomatoes	... 62 „	Milk	... 12 „
Beans	... 16 „	Creamed Rice	... 1 „
Beetroot	... 19 „	Frozen Whole Egg	... 1 „
Carrots	... 9 „	Golden Syrup	... 2 „
Celery Hearts	... 1 „	Soup	... 6 „
Mixed Vegetables	... 2 „	Gherkins	... 1 jar
Peas	... 88 „	Pickle	... 3 „
Crab	... 1 „	Lemon Drink	... 3 bots.
Herrings	... 3 „	Sauce	... 3 „

Fish.

Codling Fillets	... 28 lbs.	Prawns	... 48 lbs.
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Other Foods.

Bacon	... 3 lbs.	Fish Cakes	... 17 lbs.
Butter	... 1 „	Salmon Cutlets	... 2 doz.
Cooking Fat	... 36 „	Potatoes	... 69 cwt.
Flour	... 37 „	Cheese	... 60 pkts.
Margarine	... 1 „	Dried Parsley	... 1 „
Onions	... 28 „	Oats	... 10 „
Pork Sausage	... 19 „	Pearl Barley	... 3 „
Rice	... 14 „		

Total weight :—4 tons, 11 cwts., 3 qrs., 20 lbs.

Unsound food is disposed of by burying at the Council Refuse Tip.

MILK SUPPLY.

Nine purveyors are registered as retail distributors of milk, four of these supply cream only.

Licences were granted to four distributors authorising the sale of “Tuberculin Tested” milk and three Dealers Licences were issued authorising the use of the word “Pasteurised.” One Supplementary Licence to authorise the sale of Tuberculin Tested milk was granted.

43 samples of raw milk were obtained and sent for biological examination at the Public Health Laboratory. Tubercle bacilli was not found in any of the samples.

The County Sampling Officer submitted 40 samples of milk from the Pasteurising Plant, 38 of these passed, 1 sample failed to pass the Phosphatase Test and one failed the Methylene Test.

15 samples of School Milk (Pasteurised) were submitted of which 6 passed, 8 samples failed the Methylene Blue Test and 1 sample failed to pass the Phosphatase Test.

A new plant was installed at the milk factory at the end of the year to replace the “Holder” Process by the “High Temperature Short Time” Process which is more satisfactory.

Ice Cream. There are 83 premises registered for the sale of ice cream and 9 for manufacturing this product, but only 4 of the premises in which manufacture is now carried on.

Three of the manufacturers use the hot mix, the other a cold mix method. The bulk of the ice cream sold here is manufactured by large firms whose factories are situated outside this area.

30 samples were submitted for cleanliness examination, of these 22 attained grade 1 standard, 6 were grade 2, and 2 were grade 3.

For the purpose of ensuring compliance with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 145 visits were paid to premises where ice cream was handled.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955—6

In 58 shops and 26 hotels work was completed to comply with the requirements of the Regulations, this included the installation of :—

29 new wash basins and 6 new sinks each equipped with a supply of hot and cold water.

The provision of constant hot water to 7 wash basins and 5 sinks.

The construction of clothing lockers in 7 shops.

The fixing in or near toilets of "Wash your hands" notices in 27 shops and 18 hotels.

The provision of first aid materials in accordance with article 17 in 31 shops and 12 boarding establishments where such equipment was not available.

Other matters to which attention was called and which were remedied were :—

5 cases where soap, nailbrushes and drying facilities were not provided.

2 shops and 1 boarding establishment in which sanitary conveniences opened directly into food rooms.

10 food rooms the walls of which required cleansing and decorating.

2 rooms in which wall plastering was broken, and 1 room with a defective ceiling.

2 insanitary draining boards.

2 cases in which shelves and utensils were not maintained in a clean condition, one case in which cleaning of the oven was neglected.

2 cases of dirty floors and 4 premises where unnecessary lumber was found in food rooms.

Four persons were warned for smoking in food rooms and three meat carriers for failing to wear clean and washable head covering.

Educational work was done during the course of inspections and on two occasions addresses were given to local organisations.

Shops Act, 1950. The Urban Council are responsible for the enforcement of section 38 of this Act which requires that suitable and sufficient means of heating and ventilation are provided and maintained in shops and that proper sanitary accommodation is available for the use of employees.

To ascertain that these requirements and those of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955—6, are being complied with, 441 inspections were made of shops.

Improvements in heating arrangements were made in three shops and ventilation was improved in two shops.

Licensed Houses. Supervision of licensed houses was continued, a total of 29 visits being paid. All bar sinks are provided with a supply of hot and cold water and in each house there are separate conveniences for the sexes.

Two stainless steel sinks were fitted to replace insanitary wooden sinks and one urinal was modernised.

Food & Drugs Sampling.

Devon County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for this area.

I am grateful to Dr. W. J. Doyle, County Medical Officer who has again kindly supplied particulars of samples taken in Ilfracombe Urban District during the year.

29 samples of milk consisting of 6 Pasteurised, 7 Tuberculin Tested and 16 ungraded milks were submitted to the County Medical Department and tested by the Gerber method. All were found to be genuine.

Samples sent to the Public Analyst comprised six samples of milk two samples of ice cream, and one sample each of the following : Beetroot in Malt Vinegar, Home Made Chutney, Orange Squash, Lemon Squash, Lemonade Powder, Laxoids and Marzipan.

One sample of milk was 8% and one sample 5% deficient in fat. All other samples were reported as genuine.

Pestology.

Bed Bugs. No cases of infestation occurred.

Fleas. Insecticide was used to destroy fleas in a small house.

The use of insecticidal Resins has proved useful in clearing ants and cockroaches from premises where trouble with these pests has from time to time been experienced.

Wasps. Advice was given in two cases where wasps had swarmed in houses.

Rodent Control.

Visits were paid by the rodent operator to all farms and piggeries and to poultry keepers and business premises to which rats and mice were likely to be attracted.

Test baiting and treatment when necessary was carried out on all Council owned properties and of private houses ; a test baiting of sewers in March showed " no takes " in any of the sections tested.

No charge is made for pest destruction at private houses, but a charge to cover expenses is made for business premises.

Warfarin is used by many farmers and traders and when properly used is very effective in dealing with infestations.

Public Cleansing Service.

The collection and disposal of house and trade refuse, the cleansing of streets and disposal of street sweepings, the collection, separation and sale of salvage and the cleansing of ladies public conveniences are duties under the direct control of the Public Health Inspector.

The staff employed consists of twelve males and one female whole-time and one male part-time during the winter, and fifteen males and two females whole-time with one male part-time during the summer.

Separate staff are employed for the conveniences in the public pleasure grounds and on the Pier.

Vehicles employed in the work of public cleansing consist of two Dennis Barrier Type Refuse Collectors and one Ford Ten Cwt. Van. There is also a Bedford Gulley Emptier.

The annual mileage to be covered in connection with the collection of refuse increases each year as new housing development takes place with the houses spaced wider apart and a consequent increase in the distance for refuse to be carried.

Refuse disposal is by controlled tipping at Killacleave Woods. Two men are employed in packing and covering the refuse, maintaining the roadway, clearing weeds and keeping the site in a satisfactory condition. Builders waste is used for constructing and maintaining the roadway.

The tip at Killacleave has been in use since 1920 and the lower part of the valley has been filled but there is still room to accommodate all refuse for another few years.

A total of 2,346 loads of refuse of various kinds was dumped at the tip during 1956 and included 998 loads of house and trade refuse, 685 loads of street sweepings, 126 loads of water tabling, weeds and hedge trimmings from roads and pleasure grounds, 89 loads of refuse brought by local contractors and 448 loads, mostly shale, brought by builders and used as covering material. 15 loads of leaves collected from the roads were taken to the Council's Nursery Gardens and a further 35 loads were deposited in private gardens for use as fertilisers.

Insecticidal powder was regularly used during the summer and proved effective in dealing with flies.

Salvage.

The following table gives particulars of salvage collected and sold during 1956.

Tons.	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.			£	s.	d.
2	8	1	0	Waste Paper ...	...	9	13	0
2	6	3	0	Cardboard ...	...	17	2	0
	10	0	0	Iron ...	...	2	0	0
1	12	1	0	Textiles ...	...	46	17	9
1	9	1	3	Non-ferrous Metal ...	...	131	9	9
8	6	2	3			£207	2	6

Since 1939 the total of salvage collected and sold amounts to 2,683 tons for £15,968 12s. 4d.

Public Sanitary Conveniences.

List of Public Conveniences in the Urban District :—

Situation			Accommodation		
			Females		Males
Hele ...	...	...	2 W.C.s	2 W.C.s	3 Urinal Stalls
Brimlands	...	...	2 „	2 „	3 „ „
Shearclose	...	...	3 „	3 „	4 „ „
St. James' Park	...	...	1 „	1 „	2 „ „
Pier ...	...	...	7 „	4 „	7 „ „
Cheyne	...	...	2 „	2 „	3 „ „
Pavilion	...	...	4 „	9 „	8 „ „
Avenue Road	...	...	4 „	Nil	Nil
Market Square	...	...	Nil	2 W.C.s	5 Urinal Stalls
Northfield Road	...	...	3 W.C.s	3 „	5 „ „
Church Hill	...	...	4 „	3 „	6 „ „
Bicclescombe Park	...	...	2 „	2 „	3 „ „
The Cove	...	...	3 „	2 „	3 „ „

All these premises are inspected frequently to ensure the maintenance of sanitary conditions.

No public conveniences are provided at Lee, but two private residents allow the use of water closets, to the doors of which they have fitted slot machines.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

34 premises were licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit amounting to a total of 38,840 gallons.

One licence was issued to permit the storage of 25 gallons of petroleum spirit mixtures.

£22 15s. 0d. was received by the Council as licensing fees.

171 visits were made to garages and petroleum stores for the purpose of ascertaining that the Act and Regulations were being complied with.

